

into the U.S. Air Force at age 18, where he served for 9 years.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, James Meredith went to study abroad in Africa where he wrote his first of numerous books entitled "Three Years in Mississippi." After his stay in Africa, James Meredith returned to Mississippi to start an organization called March Against Fear in order to empower and encourage African-Americans to register to vote. This organization went on to register 300,000 people in Mississippi.

In addition to his efforts to register African-Americans to vote, James Meredith started the James Meredith Library Clubs of America. This organization was created to lure African-American males into the library and encourage them to read.

Mr. Speaker, because of these many accomplishments, I would like to take time out to honor Mr. James Meredith for his vision and courage.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF
BRAD GATES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding member of my community in southern California. On October 30 of this year, 1997, the Boy Scouts of America will honor Orange County, CA, Sheriff Brad Gates with the William H. Spurgeon III Award.

Sheriff Gates has given both his support and service to the Boy Scout's Explorer program and the youth of Orange County for the past twenty-three years. Almost from the day he joined Troop 12 of the Scouts as a boy, Brad Gates has been a positive force in our community.

The list of Sheriff Gates' contributions to the citizens of Orange County is extensive. Since his days as a Scout, Brad has served as a member of the Orange County Council, as a board of directors member for both the Boy Scouts of America and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Orange County and has cofounded Drug Abuse is Life Abuse, a community coalition of drug awareness and prevention programs.

Brad Gates is not just one of Orange County's most active volunteers, Gates has served officially as sheriff-coroner of Orange County since 1974. As one of our communities most important officials, Brad continues to provide outstanding leadership while managing the largest law enforcement agency in Orange County.

And in undoubtedly his most important position, Brad is both a husband and father as well as a good personal friend to many throughout our community. Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Brad Gates truly deserves the honor of being recognized today by our Nation's leaders, as he himself is clearly among them.

STATEMENT ON THE SPILL OF
NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the fortune of attending a seminar entitled "Spill of National Significance," or "SONS." As ranking member on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I feel that it is important to alert you to innovative research being conducted in this field.

SONS was a 3-day exercise that brought together notable individuals ranging from Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and Coast Guard Commandant Robert Kramek, to representatives from FEMA, the EPA, and countless other agencies. They gathered in Philadelphia and Washington, DC, using interactive technology to find solutions for a simulated catastrophe.

The scenario involved three oil spills at two different sites, occurring within 6 hours of each other. SONS' participants were then required to resolve this crisis from various perspectives, ranging from political to environmental to financial.

Rather than wait for disasters to strike, attendees at this Coast Guard-sponsored event developed methods for dealing effectively with future oil spills. This is an example of an agency at its finest. I encourage other organizations to take a lesson from SONS and address future concerns today.

TRIBUTE TO CHLOE CONEY

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chloe Coney, a constituent of mine from Tampa, FL, who has been selected as one of eight national award winners for the Ameritech Awards of Excellence in Crime Prevention. This recognition is a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts over the past decade in developing a comprehensive and collaborative plan to revitalize low-income areas of east Tampa. I applaud the National Crime Prevention Council and Ameritech for honoring Ms. Coney's dedication.

Ms. Coney grew up in Tampa's North Boulevard Public Housing Project and her personal experiences in this economically disadvantaged area have given her great insight into the needs and opportunities of citizens living in east Tampa. She began her career of service as a parole officer and counselor where she implemented conflict resolution strategies in the Citizen's Dispute Settlement Programs for the Thirteenth Judicial Court.

Currently, Ms. Coney is the executive director of the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa [CDCT]. This community-based nonprofit organization plans, promotes, and assists the redevelopment of the east Tampa area through a wide range of programs including community building, youth leadership, family stabilization, and economic development. Her efforts should serve as a model for comprehensive and collaborative approaches to

community-based crime prevention initiatives. Ms. Coney recognized early on that creating a safe and secure environment in east Tampa requires a multifaceted approach focusing not only on community policing but also on strengthening families, developing youth leadership, and creating economic opportunity.

One of Ms. Coney's successful programs is the CDCT's Men II Boys Mentoring Program which pairs 100 at-risk African-American youth, ages 11-14, with responsible adult men. These adults are willing to share their experiences and serve as role models, nurturing the healthy development of these youth into men. Ms. Coney has also created constructive programs such as the Inner-City Boys Choir, a medical apprenticeship program, a substance abuse prevention program entitled Striving To Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows [START], and Saturday Academy which improves the academic and social skills of at-risk seventh graders.

These programs can be successful only if strong family support exists to back them up. Ms. Coney recognizes this and established an annual Parent Enhancement Conference to educate parents on ways to better support their children's development. In addition, she offers workshops twice a month for parents and launched the East Tampa School-Community Partnership which is a network of social service agencies, school representatives, and parents.

Finally, recognizing that these efforts to build up our youth must be coupled with opportunities for the future, Ms. Coney has dedicated much of the CDCT's efforts toward economic development. This year, the Nehemiah Project has focused on "community building brick by brick," with the goal of stimulating commercial development and transforming abandoned buildings. These efforts represent a commitment to matching increased educational opportunities with increased job opportunities.

This short tribute cannot begin to describe Ms. Coney's outstanding efforts in redeveloping and revitalizing east Tampa and providing a safer community for citizens of all ages. Her impact on individuals, families, and communities is immeasurable. Therefore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Coney for her hard work and dedication in developing strategies for successful crime prevention and to thank all those individuals like her throughout America who have dedicated their lives to service in their communities.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I stood on the steps of the Capitol with my fellow Democratic colleagues urging the leadership in the House and the Senate to allow a fair vote on campaign finance reform. A majority of the U.S. Senate, all the Democrats and a small number of courageous Republicans, have voted in favor of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation. In the House we have not been given the opportunity to vote on any reform bill.

After we leave today for the Columbus Day recess, with the leadership's stated desire to